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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A method of using a printer to distribute a document stored on a server, the server being connected to a network, the method comprising:

using a smart card to give an identity to the printer, the printer not having the identity until the identity is given;

using the printer and at least one cryptographic key to establish the printer identity with the server;

using the printer to receive an encrypted document from the network;

using the printer to decrypt the document; and

using the printer to print the decrypted document.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the encrypted document includes a message indicating a number of copies to be printed; and wherein the printer prints the number of document copies indicated in the message.

3. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the printer includes a smart card reader; and wherein the printer identity is established by inserting a smart card into the reader and transferring the identity of the smart card to the printer at the time of document distribution.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the smart card is used to perform the decryption.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the printer includes an embedded processor, and wherein the embedded processor is used to perform the decryption.

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6. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of ordering the document prior to establishing the printer identity.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the printer is used to order the document.

8. (Original) The method of claim 6, further comprising the step of previewing at least one low quality document prior to ordering the document.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of using at least one cryptographic key to authenticate the printer prior to ordering the document.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the printer is used to render the decrypted document.

11. (Previously presented) A method of using a printer to distribute a document stored on a server, the method comprising:

using the printer and at least one cryptographic key to establish a printer identity with the server;

using the printer to receive an encrypted document from the server;

using the printer to decrypt the document;

using the printer to print the decrypted document; and

using the printer to indicate status of the printing so that the server can charge for copies that were actually printed, wherein the printer sends back a status acknowledgement to the server.

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12. (Currently amended) A system for the distributed printing of documents over a computer network, the system comprising:

a server connected to the network, the documents being stored on the server;

a printer connected to the network, the printer being programmed to use at least one cryptographic key to establish a printer identity, and to establish the printer identity directly with the server via the network;

the server being programmed to send at least one encrypted document to the printer after a document order has been placed;

the printer being further programmed to retrieve the encrypted document, decrypt the retrieved document, and print the decrypted document according to the document order.

13. (Original) The system of claim 12, further comprising a client for placing the document order.

14. (Original) The system of claim 13, wherein the server stores low quality documents for customer preview.

15. (Original) The system of claim 12, further comprising a smart card for providing at least one cryptographic key to the printer and for performing the decryption, the smart card passing the decrypted document to the printer.

16. (Original) The system of claim 12, further comprising a smart card for providing at least one cryptographic key to the printer; and wherein the printer includes an embedded processor for using at least one cryptographic key to perform the decryption.

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17. (Original) The system of claim 12, wherein the printer is further programmed to indicate status of the printing so that the server can charge for copies that were actually printed.

18. (Currently amended) A network printer comprising:
means for reading at least one decryption key;
means for using the at least one decryption key to establish a printer identity;
means for receiving an encrypted token from a remote site;
means for using a decryption key to decrypt the token; and
means for sending the decrypted token to the remote site. [;]
~~means for receiving an encrypted document from the network;~~
~~means for using a decryption key to decrypt the document; and~~
~~means for printing the decrypted document.~~

19. (Previously presented) A network printer that can communicate with a document server, the printer comprising:
a smart card reader;
a network interface;
a processor; and
memory for storing a program that, when executed, causes the processor to use the smart card reader to read a cryptographic key, use the key to create an identity for the printer; use the network interface to establish the identity with the server, use the network interface to receive an encrypted document, decrypt the encrypted document, and print the decrypted document.

20. (Original) The printer of claim 19, further comprising a keypad and display; wherein the program further causes the processor to receive a document order from the keypad.

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21. (Previously presented) The printer of claim 19, wherein the program further causes the processor to send printing status to the network interface so that the server can charge for copies that were actually printed, wherein the printer sends back a status acknowledgement to the server.

22. (Original) The printer of claim 19, wherein the program further causes the processor to parse a message from the decrypted document, the message indicating a number of ordered copies, and wherein the program further causes the processor to print the ordered number of copies of the decrypted document.

23. (Original) The printer of claim 19, wherein the program further causes the processor to render the decrypted document.

24. (New) The printer of claim 18, further comprising:
means for receiving an encrypted document from the network;
means for using a decryption key to decrypt the document; and
means for printing the decrypted document.

25. (New) A server comprising:
means for receiving a message identifying a remote network printer;
means for accessing a cryptographic key associated with the printer;
means for encrypting a token with the key;
means for sending the encrypted token to the printer;
means for determining whether the printer was able to decrypt the token;
and
means for sending encrypted information directly to the printer if the printer was able to decrypt the token.

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26. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein using the printer and at least one cryptographic key to establish the printer identity with the server includes:

- using an encryption key to establish a printer identity;
- receiving an encrypted token from the server;
- using a decryption key to decrypt the token; and
- sending the decrypted token to the remote site.

27. (New) The method of claim 11, wherein using the printer and at least one cryptographic key to establish a printer identity with the server includes:

- using an encryption key to establish a printer identity;
- receiving an encrypted token from the server;
- using a decryption key to decrypt the token; and
- sending the decrypted token to the remote site.

28. (New) The system of claim 12, wherein the printer establishes the printer identity with the server by using the at least one decryption key to establish a printer identity; receiving an encrypted token from the server; using a decryption key to decrypt the token; and sending the decrypted token to the server.

29. (New) The printer of claim 19, wherein using the network interface to establish the identity with the server includes receiving an encrypted token from the server; using a decryption key to decrypt the token; and sending the decrypted token to the server.

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30. (New) A network printer comprising:

means for using a cryptographic key to establish a printer identity at the time of document distribution, the printer not having the identity prior to the document distribution;

means for receiving an encrypted document from the network;

means for using a decryption key to decrypt the document; and

means for printing the decrypted document

31. (New) The system of claim 12, wherein the server is programmed to wait for the printer to establish the identity within a timeout period and, if the identity is so established, to send at least one encrypted document to the printer after a document order has been placed, and to cancel the order if the identity is not established within the timeout period.